

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Survey # AA 821

Wyatt House  
1336 Bay Avenue  
Highland Beach, Maryland

C. 1920

Private Residence

The Wyatt House is a frame, Dutch gambrel roof cottage in Highland Beach. It is one of several significant extant examples of architecture designed for black Americans. The house was designed to be the summer home of a prominent black doctor, Dr. Milton Francis, and his family in the early quarter of the nineteenth century.

The Wyatt House departs from the traditional design schemes that have been established in the community. However, it also exhibits some architectural elements that are compatible with similar structures in the area. Its position in the community and its form are integral components of the analysis of this town and its uniqueness in black American history.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Wyatt House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1336 Bay Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Highland Beach

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William Wyatt

(202) TU2-8422

Telephone #: 301-267-6305

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1812 Varnum St. NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington, DC

VICINITY OF

STATE zip code

20011

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County

Liber #: WNW 47

Folio #: 493

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AA-821

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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The Wyatt House is a one and one half story bungalow with a Dutch gambrel style roof. It is a wood frame dwelling and is one of the few houses in Highland Beach that has a basement. The shingle siding is painted an earth tone with mahogany colored trim. The house was probably constructed around 1920 although the exact date is not known.

The Wyatt House is located at 1336 Bay Avenue in Highland Beach. It is situated in the block that is bounded by Black Walnut Creek marsh on the north, the Chesapeake Bay on the east, Bay Avenue towards the south and Bruce Avenue in the West. The land which surrounds the lot is marshy and sandy. Vegetation is a little less dense than in other lots in the area. The lot slopes considerably into the marsh near a tributary of Black Walnut Creek that flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

The house rests on a low stone foundation in the rear and the basement of the structure is constructed above grade. The front or southern view exhibits an enclosed porch which rests upon a pier foundation constructed of rock faced stones. Decorative cement blocks have been placed in the spaces between the piers. A stone retaining wall borders a portion of the lot on this view.

The southern view porch is enclosed with screening and a wooden railing borders the screen. A shed roof covers the porch and two dormans are recessed into the slope of the gambrel roof. The windows in the dormans are sash type with six panes in each section. The roofs are finished with asphalt shingles. On the eastern view of the house, the windows are also sash type with nine panes in each section on the first floor and six panes on the upper story.

The northern view, facing Black Walnut Creek has a veranda on the level above the basement. This porch is also screened and is supported by wooden posts and beams. The western view exhibits an interesting entrance, possibly to a garage or storage area. The doorway is shaped like a mock gambrel roof with wooden trim surrounding it.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| EHISTORIC                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                  | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                     | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                     | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT        | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                      | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   |  |

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Please see "Highland Beach Settlement" Survey Form, Also)

Highland Beach, Maryland is a historic black town that was founded by the son of Frederick Douglass. The town was conceived by Major Haley R. Douglass to be a resort community for prominent blacks in the late nineteenth century. Highland Beach is a unique, existing reminder of town planning and architectural history as it relates to vernacular and high style design exhibited by black people. Most of the architecture in Highland Beach is located on the original sites and building expansions were performed within a ten to fifteen year time frame. This provides us with a concise history of design, space planning and architecture in a homogeneous, extant community.

The Wyatt House was owned by Dr. Milton Francis who was the son of Dr. John Francis, both prominent urologists in the Washington, D.C. community. The Francis were also leaders in the Highland Beach community and many of the policies affecting real estate development in the town were defined by them. This house is considerably unlike the primary stick style and white cottage affect of most of the houses in the town. Its characteristics which exhibit the Dutch gambrel and an extension of the bungalow styles is unique in this community. All of the houses in Highland Beach are significant with respect to this district, and the Wyatt House needs to be further evaluated especially as it contributes to the development of alternative building patterns at this time.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AA-821

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

see "Highland Beach Settlement" Survey Form.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Barbara C. Turner

April 1982

ORGANIZATION

Morgan State University

DATE

444-3225

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Center for Built Environment Studies

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

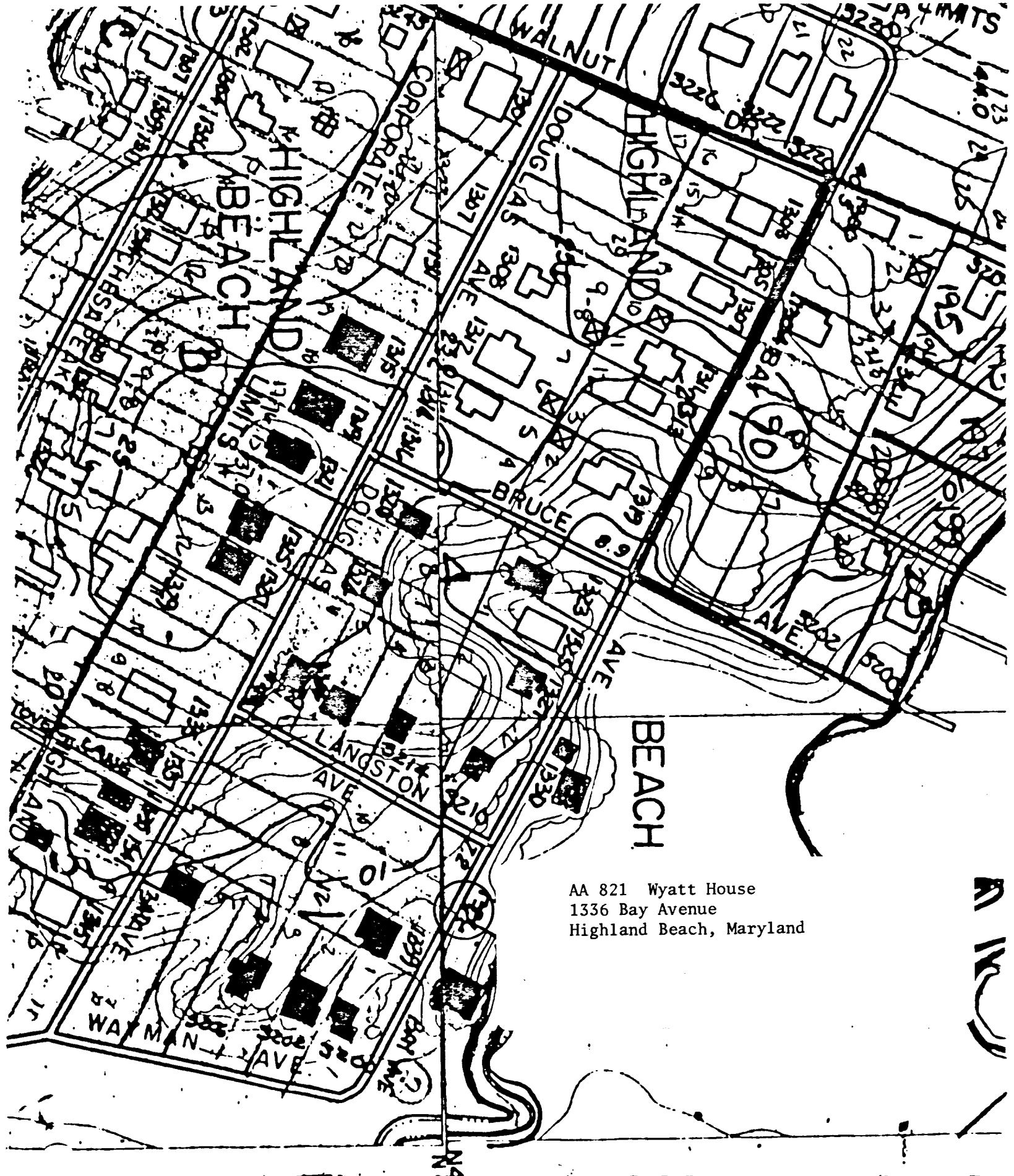
STATE

21239

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



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AA 821 Wyatt House

1336 Bay Avenue

Highland Beach, Maryland

Eastern View

Fern Eisner, Photographer

March, 1982





AA 821 Wyatt House  
1336 Bay Avenue  
Highland Beach , Maryland  
General View  
Fern Eisner, Photographer  
March, 1982